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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate James "Jim" Craft on the
4 occasion of his retirement after many years of service in
5 agricultural education; and

6 WHEREAS, Jim Craft is the son of Robert and Patricia (nee
7 Tankersley) Craft; he is the third of 6 children and his family
8 lived on the outskirts of Alton while he was a child; and

9 WHEREAS, Jim Craft's family moved to Assumption when he was
10 in the third grade; he completed his education in the
11 Assumption school system, graduating in 1971; he took
12 agriculture classes at Assumption High School and was an active
13 member of the FFA; he raised and sold domestic rabbits and
14 raised a sizable garden, selling fresh vegetables and popcorn
15 in the community; he also worked at his uncle's garage,
16 learning to repair tractors, grain trucks, and automobiles; and

17 WHEREAS, Jim Craft served for 2 terms as the FFA Chapter
18 Secretary; he was on the State Winning Poultry team in 1971 and
19 represented Illinois in the National Poultry Contest; he was
20 also named second place individual in the National Poultry
21 Contest; and

1 WHEREAS, Jim Craft entered the University of Illinois in
2 the fall of 1971 and was recruited to the University of
3 Illinois Poultry Judging team; the team represented the College
4 of Agriculture in contests in Tennessee, Arkansas, and North
5 Carolina; he earned his bachelor's degree from the College of
6 Agriculture in 1975; that fall, he entered graduate school at
7 Southern Illinois University, where he completed the course
8 work necessary to receive his teacher's certification; and

9 WHEREAS, Jim Craft was named to the Phi Kappa Phi honors
10 fraternity; during the spring of 1976, he was a student teacher
11 in Patoka; and

12 WHEREAS, Jim Craft was hired at Bluffs High School and
13 began his teaching career in the fall of 1976; he had the
14 opportunity to work with many students during his years at
15 Bluffs and enjoyed strong community support; along with seeing
16 several students achieve their State FFA Degree, he had the
17 pleasure to see 2 students serve as major State FFA officers;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Jim Craft served on various Illinois Association
20 of Vocational Agriculture Teachers (IAVAT) committees; he went
21 on to serve as the Chairman of the IAVAT Judging Contest
22 Committee; and

1 WHEREAS, Jim Craft was named IAVAT's Outstanding Young
2 Member in 1980; he served as Section 15 Chairman for 2 terms
3 and went on to serve as District III Director; he was elected
4 Vice President of the IAVAT in June of 1987 and served as the
5 1988-1989 IAVAT President; he also served the profession by
6 representing Region IV in the National Vocational Agriculture
7 Teachers' Association's (NVATA) Contest Advisory Committee and
8 served on the NVATA Legislative Task Force for 4 years; and

9 WHEREAS, Jim Craft holds life membership in the Illinois
10 Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers, the National
11 Association of Agricultural Educators, the Illinois
12 Association for Career and Technical Education, and the
13 Association for Career and Technical Education, as well as the
14 FFA Alumni; and

15 WHEREAS, Bluffs Community Schools were Jim Craft's only
16 teaching assignments; he remained there until January of 1990,
17 when he was employed by the IAVAT Administrative Council to
18 serve as the IAVAT Executive Director and the Illinois FFA
19 Executive Secretary; and

20 WHEREAS, Jim Craft served on the National FFA Board of
21 Directors and was involved in the FFA's decision to move the
22 National FFA Center and relocate the National FFA Convention;
23 and

1 WHEREAS, Jim Craft has twice served as a delegate
2 coordinator for the National FFA; he has held a key role on
3 several National FFA committees, including the National
4 Chapter Award revision committee and the Agriculture Science
5 committee; and

6 WHEREAS, Jim Craft has been honored with the Honorary
7 Chapter FFA Degree from Bluffs FFA members, an Honorary State
8 FFA Degree from the Illinois FFA members, and an Honorary
9 American Degree when he retired from the National FFA Board of
10 Directors; and

11 WHEREAS, Jim Craft went on to serve a 2-year term as the
12 Eastern Region Vice President for the National Association of
13 Supervisors of Agricultural Education; he currently serves as
14 the SAE Chairman for the National FFA Organization; and

15 WHEREAS, In his spare time, Jim Craft enjoys working on his
16 family genealogy; he also enjoys traveling and many outdoor
17 activities, including hunting, fishing, and hiking; and

18 WHEREAS, Jim Craft will receive the 2015 VIP Citation for
19 the National FFA Organization and the Lifetime Achievement
20 Award from the National Association of Agricultural Educators
21 as a special project of the National FFA Foundation; and

1 WHEREAS, Jim Craft serves as an example of a hard work,
2 passion, and dedication; his work throughout his career has
3 benefited many in the agriculture community; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
6 thank and congratulate Jim Craft for his many years of service
7 and wish him all the best in his future endeavors; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to Jim Craft as an expression of our congratulations
11 and appreciation for a job well done.